Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 SIL-01 LAB-04 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6529

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BEXP, EAIR, UK

SUBJ: PRODUCT OPPORTUNITY: HS-146 AIRLINER PROJECT

REF: LONDON 16151

- 1. WE DISCUSSED HS-146 PROJECT ON SEPARATE OCCASIONS WITH DAVID JONES, DEPUTY SECRETARY AND TONY WARRINGTON, UNDERSECRETARY, AEROSPACE, DEPT. OF INDUSTRY. BOTH STRESSED PROJECT HAD NOT BEEN SCRAPPED BUT RATHER "PUT ON SHELF" PENDING NATIONALIZATION OF AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY AND REVIEW OF MARKET REQUIREMENTS FOR FEEDERLINER TRANSPORT. THEY SAID, HOWEVER, THEY THOUGHT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE EARLY 1976 BEFORE BOARD OF NEWLY NATIONALIZED INDUSTRY WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE A DECISION WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF THE HS-146.
- 2. JONES TOLD US HE HOPES TO VISIT US LATTER HALF OF JAN UARY ALTHOUGH IT NOW STARTING TO APPEAR THAT HE MAY HAVE TO POSTPONE VISIT BECAUSE OF REQUIREMENT TO COMMENCE CONSULTATIONS WITH BRITISH AIRCRAFT COMPANIES CONCERNING NATIONALIZATION. IF HE DOES GO TO US, HOWEVER, HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT AVCO-LYCOMING'S STRATFORD PLANT TO DISCUSS FUTURE WORK ON ALF-502 ENGINE.
- 3. WARRINGTON SAID UKG WOULD WELCOME VISIT FROM AVCO TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DISCUSS PROSPECTS FOR HS-146 BUT HE SAID VISIT BEFORE

EARLY FEBRUARY MIGHT BE PREMATURE. WE SUGGESTED THAT IF AVCO WAS TO CONTINUE WORK ON 502, THEY MIGHT NEED SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE THAT, IF DECISION EVENTUALLY TAKEN TO PROCEED WITH HS-146, THEIR ENGINE WOULD INDEED BE THE ONE THAT WOULD BE USED ABOARD THE AIRCRAFT. WARRINGTON SAID HE THOUGHT THAT WAS REASONABLE REQUIREMENT AND UKG WOULD BE PREPARED DISCUSS ASSURANCE WITH AVCO DURING THEIR VISI

4. WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF FOREGOING WERE PASSED TO AVCO REP. SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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